

Team Work Gets Medical Items to the Warfighter

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The Medical Set Assembly Branch of the Defense Distribution Depot Susquehanna, PA (DDSP) Support Services Division was recently given a new challenge. This group of professionals, who continuously build a wide variety of medical sets for all services to be sent worldwide, met this challenge head on.

In late January they were asked to build a major medical set fielding – a specific assignment to build a specific kit – in conjunction with regular fieldings and increases in minor medical kits to support the Warfighter.

This build consisted of more than 5,000 lines and more than 50,000 individual pieces. Each person in Building 213 at DDSP Mechanicsburg would have a direct impact on this mission in order for it to be accomplished. Receiving was increased dramatically. Some personnel were reassigned to support the new mission; others had to cover those losses.

“Without support and teamwork, this increase in mission would have failed,” said CAPT Robert Ritchie, SC, USN, DDSP Commander. “The entire DDSP Team is doing a fantastic job of supporting the Warfighter. In this case, the Medical Set Assembly Team completed this additional mission without any decline in performance from any other area within Medical Set Assembly.”

After the individual pieces were received and packed into triwalls, another obstacle needed to be overcome. All these items needed to be loaded on air pallets and sent immediately to their final destination. With the increase in workload for all of DDSP, the group in Mechanicsburg had to build these pallets and get them out, although no one in Medical Set Assembly had ever done this particular job before.

Again, only teamwork would accomplish this mission. For pallet building, new members of the team were needed. The Airborne Riggers from DDSP New Cumberland came to Mechanicsburg to give instruction on the proper procedure for construction of the air pallets and inspection upon completion. The Distribution Operations Division provided an area for the pallets to be built and supplied material for the build. Transportation Management personnel routed trucks and assisted in paperwork.

Communication within and between divisions, pride, and teamwork allowed for the completion of a major fielding in direct support for the troops.



Taking on a new challenge, Medical Set Assembly employees team up with DDSP Airborne Riggers who instructed them on how to build triwalls filled with Medical kits into air pallets at DDSP Mechanicsburg.